

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

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R 030755Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7671

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION UN

USDOCOSOUTH

EUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1682

EO 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINT CY

SUBJECT: MAKARIOS PLANS FOR RESHAPING CHURCH OF CYPRUS

REF: NICOSIA 1586, 1628

SUMMARY: ARCHBISHOP APPEARS TO BE MAINTAINING PRESSURE ON GRIVASIST ORGANIZATION AND CONSOLIDATING CONTROL OVER CHURCH WHILE DEFERRING ANY ACTION FORCIBLY TO REMOVE RECALCITRANT BISHOPS FROM THEIR BISHOPRICS. LATTER GESTURE INTENDED TO DEPRIVE GRIVAS OF PRETEXT FOR ACTION, MEET ATHENS PRESSURES, AND RESPOND TO GENERAL NERVOUSNESS THAT CHURCH MAY BE SEVERELY DAMAGED BY RECENT SCHISM.

1. IN JULY 31 PRESS CONFERENCE, ARCHBISHOP REITERATED PLANS PROCEED IMPLEMENT SYNOD DECISIONS, THROWING DOWN GAUNTLET TO OPPOSITION ON THIS ISSUE BY NOTING THAT NEITHER GRIVASITE "DYNAMIC" ACTION NOR INTERVENTION OUTSIDE ECCLESIASTICAL
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AUTHORITY COULD CHANGE DEFROCKING DECISION.

2. ARCHBISHOP WENT ON TO SAY, THAT INCREASE IN NUMBER BISHOPRICS CYPRUS CHURCH "PROBABLY INDICATED".

3. TWO SENIOR GOC OFFICIALS (DIRGENS ANASTASSIOU OF MININT AND VENIAMIN OF FONMIN) GIVE FOLLOWING GLOSS TO ELLIPTICAL REFERENCE TO EXPANSION OF NUMBER OF BISHOPS. KITIUM BISHOPRIC WOULD BE DIVIDED INTO KITIUM AND LIMASSOL, KYRENIA INTO KYRENIA AND MORPHOU. NEW BISHOPS TO BE ELECTED FOR LIMASSOL AND MORPHOU, AND ARCHBISHOP (ALREADY ACTING AS LOCUM TENENS) WILL APPOINT SUFFRAGENS OR OTHER AGENTS TO MANAGE CHURCH AFFAIRS KITIUM AND KYRENIA. THIS WILL GIVE ARCHBISHOP FIRM CONTROL OVER CHURCH STRUCTURE, WITH SYNOD COMPOSED OF HIS FOLLOWERS. HE WILL THEN BE IN POSITION INDEFINITELY TO DEFER ANY EXPLICIT ACTION TO REMOVE RECALCITRANT BISHOPS FROM THEIR BISHOPRICS, BY SIMPLY IGNORING THEM. ALTHOUGH DEFROCKED BISHOPS WILL HAVE CONTROL OVER VARIOUS LEGAL RECORDS (BIRTH, MARRIAGE, DEATH CERTIFICATES, ETC) ON DEPOSIT IN BISHOPRICS, THEY WILL COURT GENERAL DISCONTENT IF THEY WITHHOLD THEM WHEN REQUESTED. VENIAMIN EXPLAINS THAT PROPOSED PROCEDURE WILL MEET ATHENS PRESSURE TO REFRAIN FROM FURTHER ACTIONS AGAINST BISHOPS, DEPRIVE GRIVAS OF PRETEXT OR NECESSITY TO TAKE UP ARMS TO "PROTECT" BISHOPS. VENIAMIN FURTHER SAYS ARCHBISHOP HAD ACTUALLY HOPED BISHOPS OF KITIUM AND KYRENIA WOULD BOW TO MAJOR SYNOD DECISION AGAINST THEIR EFFORT TO DEFROCK ARCHBISHOP, IN WHICH CASE THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN LEFT IN PLACE IN EXPANDED SYNOD. PLAN ALTERED IN VIEW THEIR REFUSAL RECOGNIZE MAJOR SYNOD.

4. HOLY SYNOD TUESDAY ELECTED TWO NEW SUFFRAGAN BISHOPS IN ORDER GIVE CYPRUS CHURCH A QUORUM. TWO MEN ARE FORMER ARCHIMANDRITES, CHRYSANTHOS SARIYANNIS (WHO BECOMES BISHOP SUFFRAGAN OF LYDRA AND BARNABAS SOLOMONTOS (WHO BECOMES BISHOP SUFFRAGAN OF SALAMIS). AFTER FORMALITIES COMPLETED AUGUST 12, AND ONLY ON INITIATIVE OF ARCHBISHOP, SYNOD WILL MAKE DECISION RE INCREASING NUMBER OF DIOCESES AND SETTING IN MOTION MACHINERY FOR SELECTION NEW METROPOLITAN BISHOPS.

5. MEANWHILE, CHARGES HAVE BEEN MADE AGAINST 26 OF PERSONS DETAINED RECENT MONTHS. THIS IS FIRST EFFORT TO BRING TO TRIAL ANY OF THOSE APPREHENDED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS YEARS TERRORISM. CONFIDENTIAL

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FIRST HEARING AUGUST 9.

6. COMMENT: AS VENIAMIN CONFIRMS, MAKARIOS SEEMS TO BE MOVING ON TWO TRACKS. HE IS MAINTAINING TOUGH LINE AGAINST GRIVASIST TERRORISM, WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON ORGANIZATION. AT SAME TIME, HE IS ADJUSTING TO PRESSURES FROM ATHENS AND COUNTERING CONCERN OVER CHURCH SCHISM BY DEFERRING FURTHER DEFINITIVE ACTION AGAINST DEFROCKED BISHOPS. END

COMMENT.
MC CLOSKEY

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